DOCUMENT RESUME

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AUTHOR	Galt, Margot Fortunato
TITLE	The Story in History: Writing Your Way into the American Experience.
INSTITUTION	Teachers and Writers Collaborative, New York, N.Y.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-915924-39-0
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AVAILABLE FROM	Teachers and Writers Collaborative, 5 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003-3306 ($24.95 hardback, ISBN-0-915924-38-2; $14.95 paper, ISBN-0-915924-39-0; 10% discount for members).
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ABSTRACT

Addressed to teachers from upper elementary to adult level as well as to writers, this book gives teachers and students an entirely new way to learn about American history--by reexperiencing it from the vantage point of the imaginative writer. The book maintains that students will thus gain both a deeper understanding of the issues and conflicts that comprise the American experience, and a keener sense of how writing really works. The book presents over 20 exercises (using sources as various as early maps of the Americas, Walt Whitman's accounts of the Civil War, Sioux oral histories, diaries of the women on the Oregon Trail, ads in 1940s issues of "Life," and poetry by Gwendolyn Brooks and Pablo Neruda) in which students combine research, imagination, and personal memory to explore both the "big events" and everyday life in their own stories, poems, and plays. Each chapter in the book contains several major exercises organized in a series of steps toward the completed writing, and each includes models on which the exercise is based and examples of student writing developed from the exercise. The book's chapters are as follows: (1) The Family in History; (2) Heroes and Heroines; (3) Discovery and Trade; (4) Tracking Years and Land In North America; (5) War, Violence, and Protest; and (6) Migration, Technology, and Social Change. Three appendixes discuss how to create a writing assignment with a historical slant, historical sources, and tips for looking at photographs. (SR)

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